



## CITY OF COLUMBUS

Department of  
Community Development

February 18, 2008

We begin our 27<sup>th</sup> year for our Community Garden. Good Friday is a little earlier this year so we will try to work around the following schedule to make sure the garden is ready for you on Good Friday:

March 3 - 7                      Pre-registration for 2008 gardeners.

March 10 - 14                  Open registration for new gardeners and previous gardeners who want to purchase additional plots.

In order to keep this garden as public as possible, gardeners should limit their purchases to no more than the equivalent of 3 large plots (3 large or 6 small)

March 10 - 14                  Garden will be tilled and cleaned of debris.

March 17 - 20                  Plots will be staked and mulch/materials will be delivered.

March 21 (Good Friday)              **GARDEN OPENS**

May 1                              Any remaining plots will be assigned.

Please do not remove the stakes and remember, all gardeners are responsible for common areas (especially walkways).

Be considerate of your neighbors by supervising young children and by keeping your garden hoses rolled up.

If you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions, please contact Community Development at 376-2520.

Have a great growing season and, if you are able, plant an extra row for Love Chapel, Lincoln Central Neighborhood Center or Eastside Community Center.

Don't forget: Columbus in Bloom's Planting with the Pros will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds:

Saturday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 9 from 12:noon until 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Your Community Development Staff

Judy, Beth, Jim, Jerry, and Ali

## **Registration Information**

Applicants desiring a garden plot may pre-register for the same plot(s) that they occupied last year. Registration forms and payments may be dropped off at the Department of Community Development, City Hall or may be mailed to: Community Development, 123 Washington Street, Columbus, IN 47201

Beginning March 10, 8:00 a.m., new applicants desiring a garden plot may register on a first-come, first-served basis as plots are available. To apply, please contact the Department of Community Development (above address and location) or call 812-376-2520. If no plot is available, you may be placed on a waiting list.

## **Fees**

Gardeners will be charged an annual rental fee of \$15 for a large plot and \$10 for small plots. The fee is non-refundable and covers the period from May through October each year. Current gardeners will be allowed to keep their plot when renewing, upon payment of their annual fee.

## **Shared/Common Areas**

All gardeners are responsible for keeping common areas neat and weed-free.

## **Composting**

We encourage use of compost to keep soil fertile. The City will provide compost (as available) for use by all registered gardeners.

## **Tools**

Gardeners will provide their own tools.

## **Abandoned/Neglected Plots**

If a plot is not planted within a reasonable time or left unplanted for 3 or more weeks during the growing season, or if it appears abandoned or neglected, or if invasive weeds are allowed to run rampant the gardener will be asked to take immediate action to clean up the problem or the plot will be clean and the gardener will not be able to rent a plot the next year. If an emergency contributes to such a problem please let your fellow gardeners know so the group can help you.

## **Art and Decoration**

A broad range of garden art (including trellises and whimsical items) is welcome within garden plots, but please avoid bringing junk or trash into the garden. When in doubt, check with your fellow gardener.

## **Children**

Kids are welcome in the Community Garden. For safety's sake and the comfort of fellow gardeners, please keep a careful eye on your children.

## **Pets**

If you take your pet to the garden, please keep them on a leash. Clean up after pets – remember dog and/or cat droppings are not suitable for composting. Please bag them and take them home.

## **Vandalism and Theft**

Vandalism is a common fear among community gardeners and, as last year's gardeners know, we had several incidents.

If you notice vandalism or theft, please notify the department of Community Development at 812-376-2520 as soon as possible. If you witness vandalism or theft taking place, please dial 911 and report this crime. For your own safety, do not confront the culprit yourself.

## **Watering**

Coin operated water vendors with yard hydrants are available.